

BARNSLEY RURAL
SANITARY DISTRICT.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. T. SADLER, Esq., M.D.),

FOR THE


Year ending December 31st, 1898.



BARNSLEY :

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1899.



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GENTLEMEN,

THE year 1898 was milder and drier than the average, less cold in the winter months, both at the beginning and end of the year; a little warmer than usual in the summer months, and with rather more than 5 inches, or 500 tons per acre, less rain than the average for the preceding 30 years, the deficiency having been most marked in the first quarter of the year, in July, and in September. The dry and warm weather of the last two months caused the temperature of the subsoil to remain for about twelve days longer than usual at or above a temperature of 56° , with the result of an unusual amount of Diarrhœa during that period, and an increased tendency to the development of Typhoid Fever a little later, which however did not affect our district to so serious extent as was experienced in other neighbouring Townships.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 110, to which have to be added 6 in public institutions outside the district amongst persons belonging to it, and removed to them for treatment, making in all 116, practically the same as in 1897, when the deaths were 113.

In order to calculate the death-rate it is necessary to make some estimate of the population concerned, which seven years after the census year is often not easy to do, especially in a district where trade conditions are liable to cause considerable fluctuations; but about the middle of the year an enumeration of the inhabitants of the most populous townships was made for educational purposes, and it was found that there were as nearly as possible 2600 inhabitants in Cudworth. This was about 200 less than the estimate for 1897, notwithstanding the fact that some 52 new houses have been erected in the township during the year. It is however well known that a large number of houses are empty, and there is I think less crowding in those which are occupied. Moreover there has been a temporary check in the development of an important new colliery in the neighbourhood, causing for the time a diminished demand for labour and a consequent diminution of the floating population.

In the other townships there is no reason to suppose that there has been any important change in the number of their inhabitants, and I therefore estimate the population for the middle of 1898 as having been 6390, or about 200 fewer than in 1897.

This will make the death-rate to have been 18·15 per thousand persons living, or a little over that for 1897. As the Births were 229, or 36 fewer than in 1897, the birth-rate was 35·48, also a little lower than in the previous year, but about the average for previous years.

Of the deaths 58, or exactly one half were amongst children under 5 years of age, and 41 or 36·2 per cent. of the whole were amongst infants, giving an infantile death-rate of 152·83 per thousand births registered.

The deaths for the seven principal Zymotic Diseases were 9 in number, or at the rate of 1·408 per 1000 of the population. Of these 7 were from Diarrhœa in Carlton and Cudworth, 1 from Scarlet Fever in Cudworth, and 1 from Measles in Carlton.

There were none from Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, Croup, or Whooping Cough.

During the year only 25 Notifications of cases of Infectious Diseases were received under the Notification Act, being 15 fewer than in the previous year.

Each case was visited as soon as possible and full information obtained on all points likely to enable us to ascertain the origin of the infection and to prevent its spread. Steps were taken to remove any unhealthy conditions that might be discovered in the house of the patient or its neighbourhood. In cases of Scarlet Fever or Typhoid, isolation in the Kendray Hospital was offered and urged if there did not seem to be proper facilities for keeping the patient isolated at home.

The Teachers in the Schools attended by the children in houses where Scarlet Fever was reported were warned, and informed how long it was desirable that they should not be allowed to come to school, and the houses were disinfected before that time had expired.

There were 13 notifications of cases of Scarlet Fever, of which 5 were in Cudworth, 1 in Carlton, 4 in Woolley, and 3 in Billingley.

Of the cases in Cudworth, the first was in January, and the child was dead before the notification was received, being the only death from the disease during the year. There was no further case until November and December, when 4 other cases were reported, probably imported from a neighbouring Sanitary District, and possibly spread by unnoticed cases at school. It was not found possible to induce the friends of the patients to consent to their removal, and one other case has since been reported in the Township.

In May 2 cases were reported in Billingley, and yet another in November, all probably imported from Schools in a neighbouring Sanitary District. All were removed to the Hospital, and there was no spread of the disease. In September and October there were 4 cases in three houses at Woolley Colliery, and also one in a house at Carlton, where isolation at home was possible.

The seven cases of Typhoid Fever were all, with one exception, at Cudworth. The first was in January, and in her case removal to the Hospital was refused, and the infectious nature of the disease was shown by the fact that a relation living near who had waited on her, and a servant girl from another district who had also given assistance both took the disease, and were removed to the Kendray Hospital. Another case was reported in June in Victoria Terrace, and as the drainage of the neighbourhood was unsatisfactory, was at once removed to the Hospital, where the Bacteriological test confirmed by the symptoms showed that it was not true Typhoid, and he soon recovered and was sent home. In the case of another patient who was suspected to have Typhoid, notification and unnecessary removal was prevented by the medical attendant having availed himself of the test before notification. In November and December there were three other cases all in Upper Cudworth in the recently built houses draining for the present into cesspools, all of which were removed to the Hospital, and two proved to be very severe.

The remaining case was in a house near the Midland Railway Station in the township of Notton, where the drainage and water supply were both unsatisfactory.

One case only of Diphtheria was notified in a damp house with a badly ventilated drain at Stainborough.

The other 4 notifications were of cases of Erysipelas, of which 3 were in Stainbrough, and one at Woolley. In two of the houses sanitary defects were discovered.

Of diseases not coming under the Notification Act, Measles were prevalent in July and August in Cudworth where 27 cases were reported in the families of children attending School. The ordinary school holiday of three weeks happening to be due, no school-closing order was needed, and when that period had elapsed the outbreak had ceased.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in April amongst the children at Woolley Colliery, affecting the attendance at the School.

There were several cases of Mumps at Cudworth in August, and Diarrhœa was prevalent in September, during the whole of which month the temperature of the subsoil was above 56°.

There were seven deaths during the year, all in the Townships of Cudworth and Carlton, and also two deaths from Gastritis or Gastro-Enteritis in infants, probably meaning much the same thing, of these seven were in September and one in October, the remaining death in April in which Marasmus was also mentioned as the cause of death, was probably more of the nature of Consumption than of Zymotic Diarrhœa.

III.—The usual systematic inspection of the District has been made during the year, and the results reported at your monthly meetings.

In consequence of things observed in these inspections, in addition to many verbal warnings, 47 formal notices were given for the abatement of Nuisances. In six cases your authority was asked for and given to take legal proceedings, but only in one were such proceedings actually needed. Most of these nuisances were on private property, but in addition I had to report in February that the Sewage Farm at Carlton was in a very offensive condition, and you gave authority to your Inspector to take such steps as were necessary to improve it. In March and again in July I had to report that the water supply of Railway Terrace in the same Township had become seriously deficient, and by October I was able to tell you that a main had been laid to give a proper supply.

In April I had to report that a slaughter-house in Carlton was in a very unsanitary condition, and that Bye-laws for the regulation of such places were needed. The slaughter-house was shortly afterwards improved, and the sanction of the Local Government Board obtained for Bye-laws for Slaughter-houses, and also for the paving of yards behind houses, the need for which I had frequently pointed out.

In May I had to report that the water supply at Billingley was deficient, and that samples of the wells in use had been sent to the County Analyst, who pronounced them unfit for domestic use. The mains of the Dearne Valley Water Company pass through the village, a notice has since been given to the owners of property to provide supplies for their houses. I had also to report serious pollution of a water course in the same Township by the imperfectly purified effluent from sewage disposal works in a neighbouring sanitary district. Complaint was made to the Authority concerned, but it has not been found easy to get the nuisance thoroughly abated.

In June a plan was brought under your consideration for the temporary abatement by broad irrigation on land of the nuisances arising from the fact that until the sanction of the Local Government Board could be obtained for a general system of sewerage and sewage disposal for Cudworth, certain new houses such as Victoria and Albert Terraces, and the houses in Snydale Lane had to be drained into cesspools. In July I drew your attention to the insanitary condition of a number of closets attached to houses on Carlton Green, which have since been reconstructed, and also to the thick and muddy condition in which water was frequently delivered to houses at Carlton from Lord Wharnccliffe's reservoir, for want of systematic flushing of the mains. An attempt was made to secure an improvement, but similar complaints were made later in the year. I had also to point out to you, not for the first time, the increasing need for a regular system of scavenging for the same Township. The matter was referred to the Parochial Committee, and adjourned from time to time until at length it being impossible to get farmers to empty the ashpits, you ordered an advertisement to be inserted in the local papers inviting tenders from persons willing to undertake the work.

In August I drew your attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the surface of the streets in the newer part of Carlton, which we were able to get amended by means of an ordinary notice.

An application was made to the Local Government Board for more extended Urban Powers in order to enable you to deal with similar conditions in other parts of the district, but this was only granted under considerable limitations.

About the same time the water supply of Brick Row, Woolley Colliery was again brought under your consideration, all the notices legally required having been duly served, the parties concerned appealed to the Local Government Board, and since then little or no visible progress has been made in the matter.

In October the pollution of a water course in Notton by the Sewage from another Sanitary District was reported to you, and the Authority concerned asked to abate the nuisance.

In November and December I had again to draw your attention to the imperfect scavenging in Carlton, and to the condition of the street and yard-surfaces in certain parts of Cudworth.

There were 5 notices for nuisances in hand at the beginning of the year, 47 new ones were issued during 1898, 45 were abated, and 7 remained in hand at the end of the year.

During the year 15 waste pipes were disconnected, and 20 were trapped, and 19 houses disinfected after the occurrence of Infectious Diseases.

Owing to carelessness and other causes in various parts of the District many of the sink pipes originally satisfactory have been cut or broken off close to the walls of the houses, allowing the water to sink into the foundations; these will have to be repaired and put into proper order.

Six samples of water have been sent to the Public Analyst for examination, and two of them were pronounced unfit for domestic use, both being from Billingley.

There were 16 Dairies and Cowsheds in the District which have been inspected by Mr. Hall, in two cases deficient cubic space was found. He has also inspected 179 Canal Boats during the year.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district, and only one establishment, the Cudworth Bleach Works, coming under the Factories and Workshops Acts.

IV.—In my observations on the General Sanitary State of the District at the end of the year, it will be convenient to consider also the report of the County Medical Officer of Health on the Sanitary Districts of the Barnsley Union, a copy of which was sent to your Clerk towards the end of the year, and in the first place I may remark that a large portion of it was founded on reports previously made by me to you, and on information given by your inspectors. It also refers to matters observed at a date several months earlier than the time when it reached you, several of the more important defects noted were removed during the year, and others still more important can only be effectually dealt with when the Local Government Board has come to some decision about the schemes for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for Cudworth and Carlton which have for some time been under its consideration.

Until it is known what method of sewage disposal will be considered satisfactory in the case of these two townships, containing more than two-thirds of the population of the districts, not only must many unsatisfactory conditions remain unamended in Cudworth and Carlton, but it must remain difficult to decide what form of sewage disposal it will be best to adopt in the smaller townships of Billingley, Woolley and Notton, the result of experiments made in neighbouring Sanitary Districts not having been always been very encouraging. In the meantime the sewage of Woolley village is about to be disposed of by a system of broad irrigation on land.

On the question of sewage disposal depends also to a certain extent that of offensive privy middens, which is, without doubt, the most serious blot on the sanitary condition of the whole district. Everyone who remembers what their condition used to be must admit that notwithstanding the large increase in the population during the last few years, a great improvement has been effected, though much still remains to be done. Every year some have been reconstructed in a better style, last year 40

were so dealt with, but nothing can ever make places where excreta are stored up for days or weeks in the neighbourhood of human dwellings otherwise than a danger to health, and yet the best alternative at present known, viz. : water-carriage, which removes everything at once, is out of the question until a proper system of sewerage and sewage disposal has been provided.

In the matter of Water Supply the difficulties were greater than usual last year on account of the dryness of the season causing the failure of many wells, and a serious drain on the waterworks of the Corporation of Barnsley, but before the end of the year there was a great improvement in the supply at Cudworth, where only 12 houses are not now provided with water from Ingbirchworth. Stainbrough also is now fully supplied from the same source.

At Carlton, the outlying portions of the Township, such as Railway Terrace and Carlton View, have during the year had water supplied from Lord Wharnccliffe's reservoir. Well-founded complaints have been made of the discoloured condition in which the water is often delivered in many parts, but this seems to be mainly due to want of flushing of the pipes, and the existence of too many dead ends, where the settlings from the pipes accumulate. Complaints have been made of the hardness of the water, but the County Analyst's report shows that it is almost identical in quality with the Penistone water, in favour of which a neighbouring Sanitary district have for some years discarded the Ingbirchworth water.

Nevertheless many of the inhabitants, not unnaturally, wish to have the softer water, and have asked you to provide it, in consequence of which Lord Wharnccliffe has again been asked on what terms he will allow this to be done.

At Billingley, where there has been great want of water at many times during the year, the Dearne Valley Water Company mains having lately been laid through the village, notice has been served on the owners of property to provide their tenants with a proper supply.

With regard to the general question of house accommodation

and condition of houses it may be remembered in the first place that the report itself shows that in 1891 the proportion of houses with less than four rooms was much lower than that found in England and Wales generally, and the proportion of better houses must have increased since then considering how many have been built with more than four rooms in the interval. Certainly there are still a few of the old-fashioned labourers' cottages, damp from partial earthing up, and rather dilapidated, which could only be made satisfactory by a complete rebuilding, but they are gradually disappearing, and a large proportion of those that remain are only occupied by one or two old people, who are allowed to remain because they cannot afford the rent of better houses, and when they depart the houses will no longer be used as human habitations.

The part of Notton which is most in want of water is that adjoining to the Darton Urban District, which is supplied from Penistone. When application was made to the Darton Urban District Council to supply water to the Police Station, which is situated in that part of Notton, it was refused, and at present there seems to be no other source from which it can be obtained. As for Brick Row, on Woolley Edge, it is difficult to say what more your Council can do, all the necessary notices have been served on the leaseholders, and they have appealed to the Local Government Board, with whom the matter rests for the present. Here again the nearest water mains are those of the Darton Urban Sanitary District.

At Billingley, of which special mention is made in the report, one house has been closed as unfit for occupation during the year. Two of the three principal owners of property are thoroughly repairing the houses belonging to them, and reconstructing the conveniences, whilst the relations of the third to your Council are such that there ought to be no difficulty in inducing him to follow their good example.

The Scavenging of Cudworth has for some time been done by a Contractor, one will be appointed for Carlton as soon as the necessary forms have been gone through, and at Woolley a regular plan is carried out for doing the work. In the other three Townships no serious cause for complaint has hitherto arisen.

Bye-laws have been sanctioned for the paving of back yards and for the Regulation of Slaughter-houses, and application has been made with modified success for other Urban powers.

So far as infectious disease is concerned, the district is in a satisfactory state, only one notification having been received during the first month of the present year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

MICHAEL THOS. SADLER,
(*M.D., Lond.,*)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ast Census 4,883, in 1898 estimated 6,390.

in the BARNSELY RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT,
Ages, and Localities.

Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.												
	Scarlatina	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Diarrhoea and Dysentry	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL
5 ..	I	..	..	..	I	..	6	I	..	..	20	29
ards	2	2	3	I	..	10	18
5	I	5	I	3	..	..	I	9	20
ards	2	..	..	I	..	6	..	..	4	6	19
5
ards	I	I	2
5	I	..	..	..	..	6	7
ards	I	I
5
ards	I	I
5	I	..	I	2
ards	I	2	2	I	I	I	3	11
5 ..	I	I	6	2	10	I	I	I	35	58
ards	2	I	..	I	4	10	5	2	6	21	52

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TABLE OF POPULATION,
SICKNESS, coming to the
the Year 1898, in the BA
to Diseases, Ages, and Loc

Names of Localities adopted for the pur- pose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separ- ate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1898.	
CUDWORTH ..	1607	2600	212
CARLTON	1401	1900	
NOTTON	269	270	
WOOLLEY	969	970	
BILLINGLEY ..	195	200	8
STAINBROUGH ..	442	450	9
TOTALS	4883	6390	229

Notification of Infectious Diseases
Isolation Hospital, the Kendray

HS. and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS
 Knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during
 RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT; classified according

ges ler 5 or er 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.				Number of such Cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treat- ment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Scarlatina	Enteric or Typhoid Fever
' 5 ards ..	3	..	..	..	..	..
ards ..	2	..	6	..	..	5
' 5 ards ..	1	..	..	..	..	..
ards ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
' 5 ards ..	..	..	1	..	..	..
ards ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
' 5 ards ..	1	..	..	..	..	..
ards ..	3	..	..	1	..	..
' 5 ards ..	1	..	..	..	1	..
ards ..	2	..	..	..	2	..
' 5 ards ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
ards ..	..	..	..	3	..	..
' 5 ards ..	6	1	1	..	1	..
ards ..	7	..	6	4	2	5

latory in the District since January 1st, 1890.
 ul, for Infectious Diseases, at Ardsley.

